

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **New palliative care room at Cherbourg to help support families**

Sad times when a loved one is in end-of-life care at Cherbourg Hospital will be made more comfortable thanks to a new project to improve the palliative care room facilities.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair Mr Mike Horan announced the imminent start of the \$150,000 project at the Board meeting in Murgon today.

“This important project will refurbish an area near the men’s ward to provide a bigger palliative care room which includes a kitchenette and visitors’ lounge,” Mr Horan said.

“The current palliative room is not big enough to accommodate extra family members who often come from afar when a loved one is placed in end-of-life care.

“The new facility recognises that it’s very important to Aboriginal people to have their family close at such a distressing time.”

Cherbourg Health Service Manager Ms Tarita Fisher said the Cherbourg Health Action Group had promoted the idea for the improved facility.

“We know from experience that more room is needed, as well as access to a small kitchen to make a cuppa when needed and a separate space for family to gather to grieve,” she said.

“It can be the last opportunity to pay respects to a loved one, so to have more of a self-contained area will be very much appreciated.”

Kingaroy contractor Wards Electrical and Communications is expected to start work on the upgrade in late October.

The project is jointly funded by the DDHHS and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Branch of the Department of Health.

The current palliative care room will be repurposed to become an isolation room to manage patients at risk of infection.

### **Background**

The DDHH Board holds its regular monthly meeting in a rural location every second month.

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS), which includes the South Burnett, delivers hospital and healthcare services to a population of nearly 300,000 and covers an area of approximately 90,000 square kilometres, around one-and-a-half times the size of Tasmania.

The DDHHS delivers care from 20 hospitals and six residential care facilities, and manages an annual budget of more than \$670 million.

**Ends**

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